

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HAVANA 00634 110832Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

AGRE-00 STR-07 /129 W

-----069222 120602Z /15

R 091907Z MAR 78

FM USINT HAVANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1352

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0634

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON ECRE MILI ET SO CU

SUBJ: CUBANS ENCOUNTER CONTINUED DELAYS IN PLANT INSTALLATIONS

REF: HAVANA 547

1. JAPANESE EMBASSY, MARCH 8, REPORTS THAT JAPANESE ENGINEERS AND TECHNICIANS AT NEW SANTA CLARA TEXTILE PLANT INDICATED LAST WEEK THAT, DUE TO MANPOWER AND MATERIEL SUPPLY PROBLEMS, COMPLETION OF PLANT WILL PROBABLY BE DELAYED FROM 1978 UNTIL 1980. (SEE REFTTEL FOR SIMILAR YUGOSLAV REPORT.) JAPANESE COMPLAIN THAT SOME NEEDED, SKILLED CUBAN TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN CALLED UP FOR ETHIOPIA/ANGOLA SERVICE AND THAT ON SOME DAYS ENTIRE BRIGADES OF ORDINARY LABORERS DO NOT APPEAR AT WORK (THAT IS, THEY ARE SENT TO OTHER PROJECTS BY CUBAN GOVERNMENT.) IN CONTRAST, JAPANESE NOTE THAT HIGH PRIORITY CIENFUEGOS THERMOELECTRIC PLANT HAS EXPERIENCED NO SUCH PROBLEMS.

2. FYI JAPANESE REPORT THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME GRUMBLING AT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HAVANA 00634 110832Z

YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE -UJC - MEETINGS, APPARENTLY IN SANTA CLARA, OVER ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. JAPANESE ALSO REPORT THAT MINISTRY OF ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY LOCAL FUNCTIONARIES ARE GROUSING ABOUT GOC DECISION TO ACQUIRE INTERIOR QUALITY SOVIET/EE, RATHER THAN JAPANESE, POWER GENERATING EQUIPMENT. ELECTRICAL INDQTRY PERSONNEL ALSO REFER TO SOVIET RELUCTANCE TO TEACH CUBANS TECHNIQUES SUCH AS HIGH-TEMPERATURE WELDING

AS EXAMPLE OF "SOCIALIST IMPERIALISM". END FYI.

3. ARGENTINE EMBASSY, FEBRUARY 24, INDICATED THAT FACTORY AND AGRICULTURAL INSTALLATIONS OF TOTAL VALUE OF 28.8 MILLION DOLLARS, DELIVERED BY ARGENTINE FIRMS TO CUBA SINCE 1974-75, HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED OR INSTALLED, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF SUFFICIENT QUALIFIED LABOR. INCOMPLETE AND UNINSTALLED INSTALLATIONS INCLUDE: 9 SILOS - 3.2 MILLION DOLLARS - DELIVERED, NOT INSTALLED; CHICKEN SLAUGHTER HOUSE - 4.06 MILLION DOLLARS - DELIVERED, NOT INSTALLED; MEAT PROCESSING FACILITY - 12 MILLION DOLLARS - ONLY PARTIALLY COMPLETED; 240 CHICKEN BREEDING SHEDS - 6.7 MILLION DOLLARS - DELIVERED, NOT INSTALLED; TWO BREAD PLANTS - 2.9 MILLION DOLLARS - ONE PARTIALLY COMPLETE, OTHER NOT BEGUN. ARGENTINES ALSO STATE THAT SOME FIVE THOUSAND AUTOMOBILES (SOME 20 TO 25 PERCENT OF TOTAL DELIVERED BY ARGENTINA) IS BEING HELD IN SUPPLY YARDS BY GOC, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF DRIVERS. (COMMENT: THERE ARE DIVERSE INTERPRETATIONS OF AUTOMOBILE STORAGE. SOME HERE BELIEVE CUBAN-STORED AUTOMOBILES ARE INTENDED TO BE SOURCE FOR "CANNIBALIZED" PARTS AND TIRES.)

3. COMMENT: GENERAL PROBLEM OF INCOMPLETE PLANTS MAY HAVE CAUSES BEYOND CURRENT AFRICA-INDUCED MANPOWER SQUEEZE. OFFICIALS AT STATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COLLABORATION (CECE) INDICATED TO USINT OFFICER AND VISITING COMMERCE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL IN EARLY FEBRUARY THAT CUBANS, AT BEGINNING OF SUGAR PRICE DROP IN 1976, REALIZED THEY HAD CONTRACTED FOR MORE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HAVANA 00634 110832Z

PLANTS IN PREVIOUS BOOM PERIOD THAN THEY HAD CAPACITY TO INSTALL. THIS REALIZATION, ALONG WITH DROP IN AVAILABLE CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY RESOURCES, CONTRIBUTED TO DRASTIC DECELERATION OF LANT PURCHASES IN 1976-77, CUBANS SAID. LANE

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP, LABOR FORCE, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HAVANA00634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780110-0651
Format: TEL
From: HAVANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780389/aaaacwyk.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2c02d9ca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 HAVANA 547
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3390456
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUBANS ENCOUNTER CONTINUED DELAYS IN PLANT INSTALLATIONS
TAGS: ECON, ECRE, MILI, ET, SO, CU, JA, YO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c02d9ca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014